

The smaller brown moth plunged into the flower among the stamens so as to reach the honey.

I have little doubt that a large tree of the genus *Careya* (apparently undescribed) in which the flowers were of similar shape but borne in an erect short spike, is fertilized in the same way, as though in full flower no open flowers were procurable during the day time, but the whorls of stamens were found covering the ground in the mornings. In this lofty tree in the Botanic gardens jungle the stamens were white but the base of the filaments crimson.

The Myrtaceæ as a rule seem to be day flowering plants. The Eugenias, our biggest genus, have usually white flowers often produced in large corymbs. *Eugenia lineata* and similar species are haunted, when in flower, by abundance of bees. *Apis dorsata* and *A. florea*, *Trigona collina* and other species and the pollen-eating flies (*Syrphidæ*) and also by many butterflies.

*E. Ridleyi* peculiar from the flowers being light apple green in colour is visited by flies (*Muscidæ*).

*Rhodammia trivervia* with small white sweet scented flowers produced in great abundance and lasting but a day each, is visited by bees, *Apis*, and *Trigona*, and by the *Syrphidæ*.

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### Fertilization of *Webera Stellulata*.

*Webera Stellulata* Hook. fil. is a small shrub 2 or 3 feet tall belonging to the order *Rubiaceæ*. It has smooth dark green shining leaves elliptic cuspidate, and a short dense corymb of light green flowers. The buds are peculiar in shape, being fusiform and narrowed towards the tip, the joints of the petals instead of being pressed together at the top into a point as in the other species of *Webera* are turned out to one side bent at an angle pointing from left to right. They are green and covered with white hairs and at the base they are connate into a short tube, in the mouth of which are long white hairs. The stamens five in number have short green filaments and long linear anthers, which split and shed their pollen before the

flower opens. The style is long and cylindrical and covered entirely with white hairs. When the fully developed bud is touched on the tip, the petals suddenly spring open and lie quite flat in the form of a star. At the same time the pollen lying loose in the bud is thrown upon the other flowers already open. The mechanism by which this sudden expansion of the flower takes place seems to be very simple. The upper part of the petals are twisted in bud, and on the side opposite to the direction in which the bent tip points a portion of the edge is incurved so as to be tightly held by the next petal to it. A light pressure, as of an insect, on the horizontal tips of the petals by bending them down causes the petals to separate and fly back suddenly, jerking the pollen out over the other flowers, or possibly on the insect visitor. On the top of the ovary is a brown sticky ring which may perhaps secrete honey but I cannot detect any in the tube. The flowers possessed a faint scent, and may be fertilised by insects, but considering the inconspicuousness of the green flowers, as compared with the sweet-scented white blossoms of the other *Weberas* and the fact that it is quite easy for the pollen of one flower to be thrown by the mere opening of the flower on to the stigma of the adjacent one, it is more than probable that the plant itself fertilises one flower by the pollen of another.

*Webera stellulata* inhabits forests, usually in rather dry spots. I have found it in Singapore at Woodlands flowering in June, and Bukit Mandai, also in Johore, at Panchur; Selangor, Kuala Lumpor; Negri Sembilan, Gunong Angsi.

The Malays call it Kahwa hutan and Kuruseh putih and Pokoh Subiroh. It flowers from December to June.

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